

LadyLike

A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers

#33
\$10 US

**Letters
Letters
& More
Letters**

LL Exclusive...
Profile Girls
**Jean &
Kristin**
**are Father
& Son!**

**Resources
& Events**

**Photography
How-To**
**Take Your
Own Pix**

TVideo Review
Ladyboys

& Foto Feature
**Ladyboys of
Southeast
Asia**

Real Life Adventure
Flying Solo



Editorial

The film *Trainspotting* was named after a Scottish pastime in which the locals watch the trains come and go. (Railfanning in the U.S.) In the major cities of our country there is another pastime the locals love to participate in. In fact, they have made it into a sport. A sport that has made us all its unwilling pawns—Transpotting. In our fantasies, we are a Cindy Crawford bopping down the street in our sexy dress, the object of desire for all men, and a role model of femininity and grace to all women.

Fantasy and crossdressing go together like a hand with long red nails and a black lace glove. After all, fantasy is how we first indulged in crossdressing. The dictionary says of fantasy:

1. The creative imagination; unrestrained fancy. 2. Something, such as an invention, that is a creation of the fancy. 3. A capricious or fantastic idea; a conceit. 4.a. Fiction characterized by highly fanciful or supernatural elements. b. An example of such fiction. 5. An imagined event or sequence of mental images, such as a daydream, usually fulfilling a wish or psychological need. 6. Music. See fantasia. 7. A coin issued especially by a questionable authority and not intended for use as currency. 8. Obsolete. A hallucination.

Most of us use fantasy in the number 5 definition. Since we can't dress, because we're living with our parents-girlfriend-wife-children, we might have daily fantasies about dressing. For many of us this fills the need, and while we may gaze wistfully at RuPaul, some of us may not ever slip into a slip... or other items of female attire. The obsolete number 8 definition applies to some of us who feel that it's possible to be 6'4" with a linebacker build and pass in public. While these big girls have the same need to dress and express femininity as a petite lass only five-foot-something in stature, they're hallucinating if they think they can do it without attracting attention.

Which leads us back to Transpotting. Thanks to the fact that more of the transgender community are feeling good about themselves, and thanks to the publicity that crossdressing men have gotten on talk shows, it has become increasingly difficult for anyone to pass.

Why? Those who care about such things, the watchers of trash TV and readers of tabloid papers, now know we're out there, and they take pride in their ability to spot us. Unfortunately, these folks have the mental ability of slightly educated squirrels. The little bit of knowledge that there are transpeople among them is enough to have them seeing a transvestite at the drop of an embroidered lace hanky. This

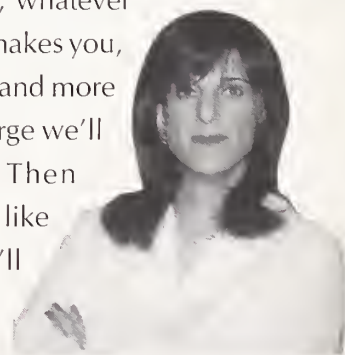
is hard on us, but particularly hard on genetic females over 5' 10". I know a few tall women and they have heard those amazed voices loudly proclaim, "Hey! It's a man," about as many times as we have.

Why do the Transpotters feel they have to shout it out? Psychology my little pupils. These are the folks who feel they must inform the world of any little difference in the fabric of their reality. If a giraffe were to walk by, their response would be much the same. "Hey! It's a giraffe." Pity for the poor giraffe if he's trying to pass as a human.

The other day I was out on the town, having lunch and then picking up some coffee beans. When I started back to my car I heard that comment, "Boy! That's a man." I no longer feel it's necessary to run home, tear off my dress and hide under the bed when I hear these comments, but it sent my mind off into a fantasy of my own. I imagined that on each block of the hipper streets in every town there were drag queens on patrol. When one of the Transpotters made an identification their loud shout of "it's a man" would draw the Tran Patrol Queen, and she would confirm their "spot" (if they were correct) and give them a gift certificate for their favorite record or shoe store. If they were wrong maybe she'd give them a kiss. That should encourage not shouting out unless you're sure. What? You thought it would be the queen's job to hit them on the head? No, violence gets us nowhere.

The Transpotting Program in each town would be paid for by local merchants, and for every tran spotted the local TG support group would pick up a few bucks. That way being read would help our community. And, think of all the drag queens who could get a steady job with this program. Everyone would be happy, and tall genetic women would have the queens to tell the spotters they were wrong. A win-win situation.

In the meantime, take some comfort from the tall women's dilemma, and when you hear those ignorant exclamations tell yourself it's just your height. Or, maybe the four inch spike heels and big hair. But, whatever you do when the Transpotter makes you, don't worry about it. As more and more of us mingle with society at large we'll cease to be an event. Then Transpotting will fade away like an obsolete definition and we'll all live in our fantasy world.



LadyLike

A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers

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Cover courtesy of Kristen & Jean

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LadyLike Profile



Jean Rich & Kristin Rivers

In Our Own Words
By Kristin Rivers

There is nothing more complex nor so endearing than the special bond between a father and a son. Indeed, we see these relationships forged in our literature and through modern day theatrical productions. Some stories end tragically, others end triumphantly, but all emphasize the unspoken and sometimes mysterious relationship which nobody can deny. So, as it happened one summer day while I was home from college, my life and my father's life would be inextricably bonded in a way which nobody could have ever imagined.

I grew up in South Florida. My parents were divorced when I was 10. I lived with my mother and my sister while my father was allotted the legal right to see us on weekends. I suppose it was because of this, I had an extra special

yearning to want to please him and make him proud

of me. I wanted to be

like him in so many

ways. He was smart,

good looking, ath-

letic, a respected

professional in

our commu-

nity, very

f u n n y ,

charming

with the la-

dies and a

t e r r i f i c

dancer.

Growing up in his image was difficult for me. Deep in my heart, I knew I was different than other boys. I had known about

my other self as far back as I could remember. I had wanted to be a girl and dress like a girl from the earliest stages of my memory. How could I ever describe these feelings to my father. I knew this would be unacceptable to him. Unacceptable even to a man who proclaimed over and over again how I could tell him anything and be anything and he would love me nonetheless. These are grand words, but clearly some things should be left unsaid. Let's face it, telling your father that you secretly went through your mother's closet and put on her clothes was not what he meant by being able to tell him, "anything."

Like many transgendered individuals, I had to wrestle with my inner most feelings versus my outer most reality. Running away from home or skipping town after high school to "become a woman" was not an option I saw as possible. My other self would take second place and be buried deep in the recesses of my mind as I embarked on my college career.

As it was, I had returned home after my freshman year of college for the summer. For me, this was an opportunity to do something I had only dreamed of while growing up. I would be able to live with my father. Ironically, at the same time I had decided to return home for the summer, my father was hoping to do something he had only dreamed of while he was growing up.

This was to be his summer to experiment. He had an opportunity to find his second self because he and his second wife decided to take time off from each other since they were experiencing difficulties in their marriage. Gaining this freedom, he intended to use the time to shave his



Kristin Rivers ▲



body and "dress up" after getting home from work. Clearly, my living with him was going to make this very difficult, if not impossible.

I was oblivious to the fact that in his joy of having me live with him for the summer, he secretly held contempt in this decision for reasons I would have never imagined. This was to be his summer to be free. To unshackle the bonds of his masculine self and to experience the woman within. Now I was living with him, and the freedom which he had so much desired was stifled once again for fear that I, his son, would never understand. Without me really noticing, he walked around in clothes which covered his shaved legs and his shaved chest. He was unable to set himself free and once again, he became closeted in his own home. It was then, he had made the decision to me about himself.

And so it happened, he asked me to come home after work one day and spend some time with him. Time to talk, time to reflect on life and what it was like for him all these years to live with an unspeakable secret. Time to share with his son his deepest and darkest thoughts. Time to lay everything on the line and be prepared to pay the price for freedom. With fear, trepidation and a slight trembling in his

voice, he began to tell his tale. He began by speaking in circles but never really getting to the point. Indeed, it took about twenty minutes before he had gathered enough personal strength before finally revealed his secret.

"My first experience that I can remember was to paint my nails when I was 4, but I was ridiculed by the other kids in my building and I knew immediately that this was not the type of thing a little boy does."

He told me how he always tried to compensate for his feminine feelings during his teenage years. At the age of 17, he lifted weights and became the number 2 gymnast in New York City on the parallel bars. He always liked girls and in order to impress them at parties, he learned how to dance. However, despite all of this, he was unable to shed his thoughts of wanting to go to bed at night and, "wake up in the body of Sophia Loren."

Following high school, there was college, then marriage, then graduate school, then one day, an announce-



ment from his wife that she was pregnant. This was when I came into the world. Now the circle was complete. The boy who had so much wanted to be a girl found himself to be a 25 year old married man having to raise a family. Despite his wife "knowing" about his inner most desires to dress as a woman and "feel" like a woman, he held everything inside, trapped and alone. It was just three years later my sister was born.

"Married with two children I did try to handle the feelings deep inside of me and kept myself hidden from my children so that they could think of me as a normal dad."

But this marriage failed, not because of the dressing, but simply because it was not meant to be. It was not too much longer after that my father met the woman who was to become his second wife. Just like my mother, this woman knew of my father's "other self." They had several good years together but in the end, things began to fall apart. The desire to dress had become much too strong for her to deal with despite the fact she said she, "enjoyed" and could accept this side of him.

I sat and listened to everything he told me. I sat not saying a word. He told me about his fears of being caught while growing up and how on a few occasions he did get caught but always came up with some crazy excuse to justify why he was dressing up. I showed very little emotion while he was telling me his tale. All I did was smile. Later, I would find out my non-emotional response and my grin was beginning to



anger him. Despite this, he wanted me understand that he was still my father, that these feelings had always been within him but he loved me dearly and this would never change the fact that he was my father and I was his son.

"We were on the dock in the back of my house. I told my son I was a cross dresser. He smiled at me and I became angry because I was describing to him how difficult my life had been. I did not think this was very funny. This was very hard for me and so I continued to talk about cross dressing and he continued to smile."

Yes I was smiling. Here I was, sitting, watching, listening to my own father tell me about his life as a cross dresser. At first I thought, "Wait a minute, does he know about me? Is this some crazy way for him to get on my level and talk to me about myself?" Of course this is the normal paranoia common among many transgendered individuals. I thought there was no way this could really be



continued next page



happening, but what if this was true? What if my father was just like me, what if I was just like my father and as we all know, the truth is sometimes stranger than fiction.

"Finally," as my father tells the story, "I said to my son I expected him to be more mature about my revelation and asked what he thought was so funny. He looked at me and said everything is okay, he was a cross dresser too! Well, I almost fell off the dock!" We talked for well over 5 hours that night. Later, he would tell me how awful he felt that I would have to go through many of the same difficulties he had experienced or that society would keep me from finding true joy and happiness in my life. In a sense, he felt as if this was his fault in some strange way. I said to him, "Dad, you have given me life. I have my health, I have a good head on my shoulders, I have everything to be thankful for. This is part of my life, it always has been there and it always will be."

Our relationship has never been better. We are father and son, "mother and daughter," and we are best friends. We laugh about stories such as the time my mother had

blamed him for taking a pair of her underwear and he swore over and over again he didn't do it, it must have been the maid. She never believed him and now he knows it was I who got him in trouble. Over the years, my father has participated in many conferences supporting the transgendered community. He has told our story at many colleges, universities and medical schools. We go out together, we both love to dance, and we even have performed on stage together. I am far more open about myself to my friends and my family than my father ever was at my age.

I am thankful he and others like him have led the way for a better world. Understanding the terrible fear he grew up with, I have begun to take on causes I feel passionate about. I am doing everything I can to educate and promote what being transgendered means. I want people to know how we as a community, as individuals and as people can contribute to society and not live in fear of being who and what we are.

Telling a child about your other self is a difficult thing to do. In our case, it was one of the best things that ever happened to us. Some years later, my father took it upon





himself to tell my sister. Unfortunately, this did not go over well at all. So what's the lesson to be learned here?

Take heart and expect the unexpected. Consult professional counselors or therapists to evaluate your personal situation. But most of all, no matter what you do, be happy, be strong, be free and be yourself. In my father's words, "I wish all of you who read this can experience all the joy and good times you can have by being who you are and stop hiding from yourself."

Jean Rich can be reached at jeantgrich@aol.com Kristin Rivers can be reached at krivers@mindspring.com. You can also see Jean in the video *All Dressed Up And Nowhere To Go*, available thru CDS.

LL





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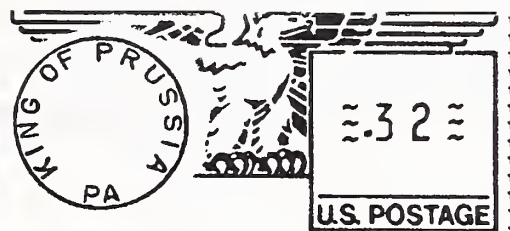
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"Ann and her staff foster a relaxed and discrete environment that encourages the gender community to explore their interests."

Cheryl Sheppard, former officer ETVC

Letters



No Longer Alienated

I just read your editorial in issue #31 and felt compelled to write. I am a closet crossdresser, lightyears away from the courage and freedom with which you live. I first discovered the world of TG publications through Transformation magazine. Reading Transformation made me realize there are other men out there with what society considers a deviant desire to explore their femininity.

However, it troubled me to think that all these other men were cross exhibitionists, obsessed with the seamy side of being female.

Recently though, I discovered LadyLike. Your publication, above all the others, exemplifies the innate grace and beauty of womanhood to which I would aspire. I no longer feel completely alienated from the group on the fringe to which I seem, unwillingly, to belong.

So, thank you for maintaining such a high standard amidst what must be enormous financial and societal pressures. If others who are less the lady and more the tramp attack you, know that your work provides real people with real hope that acceptance may one day find room in their real lives.

M. (from the Internet)

Fear Is Subsiding

I have been transgendered and a crossdresser all my life. With your help (through our books) I now understand myself much better. I am not a sex addict as one of the therapists had suggested. I am a crossdresser and happy to be one. I can ask for directions when I'm lost and cry when I feel bad. I cry a lot these days. I have years of catching up to do. My self-esteem is improving and the level of fear is subsiding. As I learn to be a woman I am also learning to be a man. I'm going to be alright because you care and there are others that care and understand. Thank you so very much!

Joanna, Mich.

Don't cry for lost opportunity, Joanna. Rejoice that you have found your true self, and have fun exploring femininity. We'll do our best to provide a map.

Looking For A New Girlfriend

Gee girls, I hope I haven't missed my next issue. Just noticed #31 is already here. I must say I just love your magazine. I hope to continue it as long as I can. It's really the best, you know. Oh, by the way, in issue #29 in the letters column, a gal I must get to know (June in Virginia) gave me, of all people, a lovely compliment and I'd love to write to her. Hoping she sees this in the letters column.



She will become a new girl friend (senior citizen). It's a complete joy to read such a magazine that can leave out graphic photos of girl-bays in the nude.

Nancy Ann Burdick, 3511 Forest Edge Drive, T-D
Silver Spring, MD 20906

First Experience Was Great

Enclosed is my check for my subscription. I am very new and just coming out. It is still difficult buying makeup, lingerie, and the wardrobe I want so I can become the sexy woman that I really am. I am very much attracted to females, genetic or wannabes like myself. I'd love to correspond and hopefully meet other sisters to share our special lifestyle. I'd love to shop and dress with a sister who could be a mentor, friend, and hopefully more.

I am forwarding a photo which was taken by a friend



in the community. She was responsible for making me up. This was my first experience and was wonderful on every level. Before we met we traded many photos and shared fantasies. Our meeting left me feeling very good. I travel extensively and would like to correspond, and hopefully meet, accepting women and sisters that enjoy the attention of another sister. I am not interested yet in men but

will not say never. I do hope you will publish my letter and photo. LadyLike does make me feel good about who I am and what I need. Thank you for caring.

Dee Ryan, PO Box 167

Branx, NY 10470

I'm sure you'll make many new friends after they see your picture and letter. Just remember, sex is the most fun you can have in lacy lingerie, but these days sex can be deadly. Contact your local AIDS awareness organization and play safe with your new girl (or possibly boy) friends.

Muchas Gracias!

Let me congratulate LadyLike; it is a marvelous magazine where transgender issues are treated with taste and style. The sections Profile, Girl Talk and Letters are a pleasure to read. In particular, I found the article *Walking in Extreme Heels* very helpful. I have followed the advice thus increasing my mastery when using that stunning footwear.

Your reader's photos in the Mirror-Mirror section are



great. I love to see pictures of other girls since they show that it is possible to cast off one's maleness and become a beautiful sexy woman. I have been crossdressing for over 13 years and I feel very good wearing feminine clothes and show my feminine self. I am enclosing some recent pictures of me which you may use. I would be overjoyed to find my pictures in your pages soon.

Rachelle, FWD 3030, Mexico City, Mexico.

PS. I agree with Beverly Barnes. It would be a good idea to have a column on the best websites, software, etc.

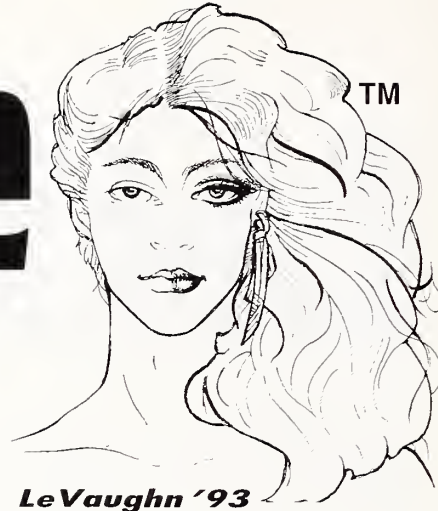
The idea is not bad. Any cyber princesses out there feel like writing a column on the Web? Email onangelo@ren.org

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LadyLike

A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers

The most informative, entertaining, and sophisticated publication to come along in years dealing exclusively with the sincere crossdresser.



LadyLike is the publication that treats the subjects of transvestism and crossdressing as they should be treated, with respect and sophistication. Chock full of great features and loads of photos, you won't want to miss a single issue. Every issue contains important and useful information to help you realize the "ladylike" qualities within yourself.

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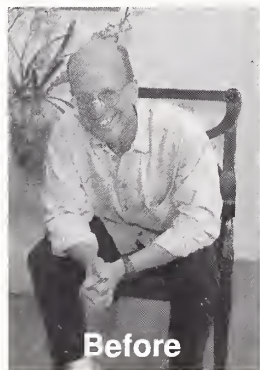
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Letters...

Bride For A Day

Enclosed you will find my renewal for LadyLike. I also send some photos. Four of them are shot on my "wedding day" in June '97 in a small town in Germany. It was not



been a real wedding; I just wanted to be a bride for one day with friends. I rented a hotel suite and invited about 20 friends to make it a party. Soon after arriving I changed my clothes, applied makeup and put on my beautiful wedding gown, which was specially made for the occasion. After a welcome drink we went by car to a nearby castle where we took several photos. It was a very beautiful place on top of a hill and with the sunny weather that day we got plenty of very beautiful shots of all the group with me.

Most of my crossdressing friends were also there. We got same attention by passing people but it not too much. My gown is very large and I needed some time to get used to it. But it was a wonderful feeling wearing it.

We went back to the hotel and had a nice dinner. At the end of the day there was a long disco night with my dear friend Chantal as disc jockey.

I hope you like the photos. My "husband" is Davis, a nice friend from Madagascar living in Germany. The castle is Schloss Altwildungen near Kassel. Anyone interested can find more pics on my homepage at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/heights/8825>

Claudia, claudia@transw.central.de

Wants to Help With Growth

How can something just keep getting better? That something is LadyLike! The Lolo Catalog Shoot (#31) was a special treat and yes, I immediately ordered a catalog. Congrats to "Supermodel" Angelo for a job well done. Thank you both for including my picture on page 25. It's always an honor to grace the pages of your magazine.

Jillian Jacobs

P.S.: As a loyal subscriber for several years I've just

noticed you're experiencing all the classic "growing pains" of a successful business—publication/printing and most recently distribution. I can't help wondering if you couldn't tap the resources of your subscription base from an outside Board of Directors who would be willing to contribute some of their expertise to enhance your progress. I happen to be a CPA with 20 years of financial and tax experience. Just a thought. But think of the group picture at the annual meeting.

Thanks for the offer Jillian. If Ja decides to go public we'll give you a call. In the meantime, I have this tax question... Never mind, I'll ask you by mail. The IRS can wait.

[JoAnn replies: Thanks from me, too, Jillian, but I think we've got the situation under control.]

Heart Pounding Experience

Just a thank you note for so many things: My two pictures in #30... I must have looked at them a thousand times. I still can't believe it's me, little secret CD, 51 years old, in a class mag. And the tip in #31... using ailsheenspray on old dull wigs; it brought two back to life. Also, the confidence you have given me. I'm seeing a psychologist [who is] helping me with my marriage. I recommend



anyone not feeling 100% about being a CD see a professional. Please! Last thank you (lots, huh?) to JoAnn for Art & Illusion and also the video Tricks & Tips—they are my bible.

Maybe I gained too much confidence. At the mall I picked up a nice skirt at Penney's, but that wasn't enough. I tried it on in the dressing room. (Size twelve, it fit great.) With other women talking my heart was so loud I swear they could hear it. I paid the girl, she smiled as we made eye contact, she thanked me and I know I passed, at least this time. God I felt good.

AlisonCD@aol.com

It's great that you passed, but I hope that skirt was a bargain. Getting a great buy, now there's euphoria! But seriously, as JoAnn and I always say, passing should not be your goal. To be out in public, interacting with other people and be accepted as the person you are is more

satisfying in the long run. The big problem with passing is you never know if the person called you "Miss" because they had no clue about your true gender, or because they realized you were a male and they just wanted to be courteous. Enjoy passing but don't be depressed if it doesn't happen always. Have fun.

Could Not Stand Deception

I would like to tell you how much we enjoy your magazine. My wife and I read it with great interest as it



is well done with interesting and informative articles.

After many years of being in the closet I couldn't stand the deception and probable damage to our marriage any more, and decided to tell my spouse of my secret. This decision was reached only after much soul searching and the knowledge that it might end our relationship. I felt it better to tell her than have her discover it with all the negative emotion such a discovery can cause.

I carefully chose a time and place when we would not be interrupted, and just told her plainly. Her initial reaction was shock and silence. Then, fortunately, she started to ask questions about it and ever since then we have been gathering educational material so that she can understand it, and help her deal with "the Gift." I am extremely fortunate to have such an understanding spouse who not only accepts but is supportive. At this point in time, we talk about crossdressing a lot and are quite comfortable with my dressing at home. Where we will go from here I'm not sure, but it will be together with honesty and love.

Needless to say, this letter is only a sketch of what has taken place between my spouse and I since that "coming out day" several months ago, however there is no doubt that any other approach would have been certain disaster.

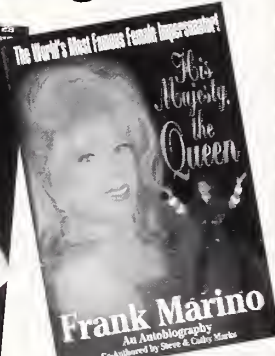
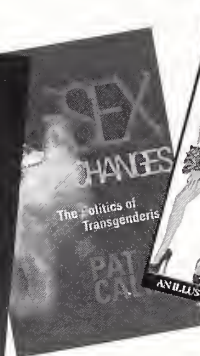
I of course realize that many sisters are not in a position to tell their spouses, but for those that are, the straight forward, honest approach is best. Enclosed are a couple of photos which I hope you can publish along with an address so you can forward mail.

J. Gnills, FWD3249, P.S.: Your On My Mind column in LL#31 was excellent.

continued on page 15

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Letters...

Your spouse would probably benefit greatly from meeting other women who are involved with crossdressers. You should contact a local support group and find out if they have a spouse support group. Failing that, a visit to a S.P.I.C.E. conference (check our Community Calendar for the next conference) would be helpful for you both. Congratulations on being honest and good luck in your future together.

Likes Our Advertisers

Just received and read my latest LadyLike and renewed my subscription. Keep up the great work, gals. I just can't wait to get each issue—they, and you, and the articles, and the advertisers have been so helpful to me and my coming out.

Yesterday I received my order of Veronicas 1 & 2 from Classic Curves. Are they ever the best! I screamed when I saw myself in the mirror. I have a figure now. Thanks to your advertisers for great products. Also, their response to my order was great. Less than three weeks. I am impressed!

Love ya's, Lisa Anne Leslie

Fantasy Woman

I love to see the beautiful girls in Mirror/Mirror, but don't dress myself because I fall short of my ideal female self. However, in my constant fantasies, I am a thirtyish career woman with the smile, figure and clothes sense of Claudio Schiffer. In a meeting of work, my co-workers see a conservatively dressed businessman. What they don't know is that in my mind I am fantasizing a trip to the beauty parlor, feeling PMS, etc., etc. In fact, I am thinking of beginning a fantasy pregnancy in real time—missed period, visit to my ob/gyn (an older mom named Cori), sonogram... all the way to natural childbirth, and best of all breast feeding my baby girl. Please keep up the great work. Laura

Well, there's a rich fantasy life for you. I'm sorry that you don't dress yourself, Laura. For so many of our sisters let things like falling short of their feminine ideal keep them from experiencing the real joys of crossdressing. In a fantasy everything happens the way you want. In real life dressing up you never know what's coming around the next clothes rack. You interact with others as a feminine person, and have an opportunity to develop a social life as a woman. Perhaps not the perfect woman, but one who goes places, has friends and does things. You may not experience the joy of PMS (I don't think you'll find any woman who considers that a joy) but you will know the pain of a bra that starts to eat you after 10 hours of femme fun, of shoes that make your feet ache, and the joy of being treated like "just a girl" whose opinion doesn't amount to much when the guys you are with are discussing something girls aren't supposed to understand. Take a chance, "Don't dream it, be it."

Still Loves Us

First of all, I just want to give my appreciation for the effort and energy that you and others have put into LadyLike magazine, and all that is offered by CDS. My thanks go to you for just being you. Your true self certainly shines through.

I discovered LadyLike magazine with the premier issue nearly ten years ago. After purchasing the magazine I thought that it could be no worse than any of the mediocre magazines and contact newspapers that I had been purchasing at that time. But the real surprise, amazement, and astonishment came when I read LadyLike, and looked at the pictures it contained. At last a magazine that put transvestism in a positive light. Thank you ever so much! Linda

Not Weird Or Sick

I could never find words to express my appreciation for your LadyLike magazine. Your publication has been like an "angel from heaven" in my healing process. To discover at the age of 58 that my femme desires are not weird and I'm not "sick" is an absolute delight! The articles in your publication have been a big part of that process. Thank you, thank you!

I enjoy both the male and feminine personalities of my life. The enclosed pictures are my first attempt at "self portraits." I hope they are OK for publication. I would very much enjoy getting acquainted with other ladies in the Seattle area. I am a very honest and real person and enjoy the same. I love the idea of printing addresses and look forward to my personal improvement through correspondence and your very "classy" and wonderful magazine.

Angela Dehn, 4525-164th St. SW #K101

Lynnwood WA 98037-8630

Well, first of all, what a lovely name. When taking your picture remember—good lighting is a must. I know we all look better in the dim light of the evening, but when taking our photos more light is better. See the article by Stella in this issue.

If you want to meet some sisters fast, give your local support group a call. You're lucky to live in an area that has a well established group like Emerald City. Give them a call at 206-284-1071 and get info on when and where they meet. Thanks for reading LadyLike.

Never Heard Those Words

I recently finished reading LadyLike #31. It is enjoyable reading and very tastefully presented. It's good to know that there are kindred spirits out there. Until recently I did not know the terms "crossdressing" or similarly [the term] "transvestite." All seem to be loving, friendly, caring, etc., and thank you and the magazine staff for your work. None of my acquaintances or relations know (at least I don't think so) of my sentiments for expressing the "lady like" side.

Your magazine has enlightened my thinking and put me out of the "mentality thinking" of segments of our society that condemns "non-conformity."

Thank you again and your CD staff for addressing another way of expression.

Gladys Lain, Texas

Wow! Never heard crossdressing or transvestite? Where have you been? It's hard these days not to run into those words on television, the radio and in print. Well, never mind child, you found us and that's what is important now.

Not Really A Bitch

It was lovely to have dinner with you at Southern Comfort. You're really not the bitch you say you are. Overall, I've found crossdressers to be lovely, supportive people. You clearly fit this mold. The crap lesson was interesting, but I think I'll just watch when I get to Vegas.

I love LadyLike, but would offer a few suggestions. Some of the ads come out late. Issue #31 came with a Fall Harvest ad, but arrived after the event was over. A really good series of articles comparing beard covers, foundations, mascara, etc., would be helpful. Lastly, most of the pictures of the girls are lovely, but some of the cheesecake shots feature girls who don't really have what it takes. Could you ask the girls not to try to flaunt what they don't have. I know how they feel. I'd like to look like a Playmate, but don't have it. Hope to see you at the T.

Cindy Loveless, Texas

I'm glad you enjoyed dining with JaAnn, and no, she's really not a "type B" personality. You just have to approach carefully and offer food or jewelry. She won't bite then.

We try to get the magazine out on a timely basis, but sometimes production problems, or the post office can cause delays. Please accept our apology.

Thanks for the suggestions. We'll put the staff to work on the makeup comparison idea. As for the cheesecake shots, we try to keep them tasteful. (Believe me, you don't know what we've left out.) The whole point of LadyLike is to encourage crossdressers to express their feminine side. Sometimes that side is demure and sometimes it's sexy, or glamorous. If we don't actually "have what it takes" to pull off a certain pose at least we had the courage to try the pose, and the courage to share it with the world. When you get right down to it none of us has "what it takes." That's why the name of JaAnn's book is Art & Illusion. Before the illusion is perfected everyone is a work in progress. If we turn down their picture they may get discouraged and slow down, or stop the process of having their femme expression. No, the only thing that keeps anyone from getting their picture in LadyLike is a smutty shot or a poor photo that can't be reproduced well. Go ahead Cindy, experiment with some Playmate poses. You might get better results than you imagine.

Lady Kayla



Satin Knickers For "girls" in NYC

Lady Kayla and Mz. Barbara Satin are proud to announce the opening of Satin Knickers for "girls" in NYC. Satin Knickers is the ultimate transformation experience where you can be lovingly guided or forced to be the girl of your dreams. Your guide may be a stern aunt, a school teacher, or a rubber nurse. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination. You can be a sissy in a crib with her dolls, a latex maid, a prom queen, or a bride. The possibilities are endless. All aspects of feminization will be covered.

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For more information call: 717.677.8870, Mon. – Fri.



Mz. Barbara Satin

Lady Boys of SE Asia

Dear JoAnn,

I just came back from a business trip in Vietnam. Believe it or not I was riding a motorcycle to a rather isolated area of national park north of the beautiful city of Hue. Outside a small hut I came upon the most exquisite woman wearing full makeup, a very slinky silk high-collared dress and holding an umbrella to shade her from the heat of the day. She waved for me to stop and wanted me to photograph her. It didn't take long to realise she was a "ladyboy." Another soon popped out of the small grass hut. And they both primped and posed for the camera.

During the trip I ran across several others but all were very camera shy.

A short stopover in Bangkok took me to the famous Calypso "Katoi" (Ladyboy) show at the Ambassador Hotel. These young "women" were beautiful creatures with slender figures and porcelain complexions. The show was a carefully choreographed and lasted well over an hour. The costume design was superb and the girls did impressions of several western performers such as Tina Turner and Celine Dion, as well as their own renditions of some of the great show tunes from the 50's and 40's as well a slick dance number straight from 42nd Street.

I was assured by the girls after the show that their male attributes were still intact although well tucked away! Some had had their adams apples shaved to give the perfect illusion and a little silicone here and there. They were most pleased for me to photograph them especially when I told them they may well appear in *LadyLike*.

The katoey is an integral part of Thai culture and they are fully accepted into mainstream society. We could learn a lot from this. They can be easily distinguished as many are very much taller, in general, than Thai women, and in many respects are more slender and graceful. Cosmetic surgery is very common and several I met had almost European features. Many of these beautiful katoeys are very camera shy as they have been often exploited by western media as freaks.

I will return next year to photograph more of these beautiful people.

Miki, New Zealand



The photo that started it - Hue, Vietnam. ▲

A Katoi in Bangkok. ▼

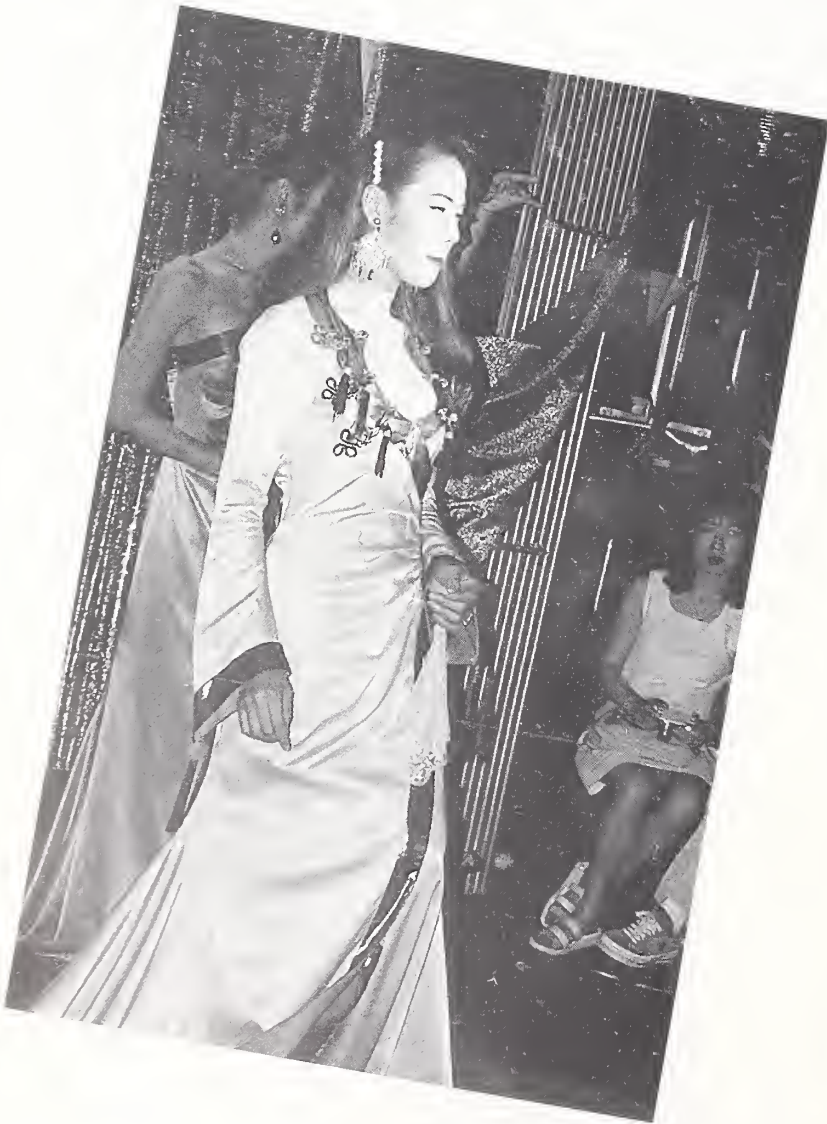


photos by
Miki
New Zealand

More Katoi at the Calypso ▼



The Ladyboys of SE Asia



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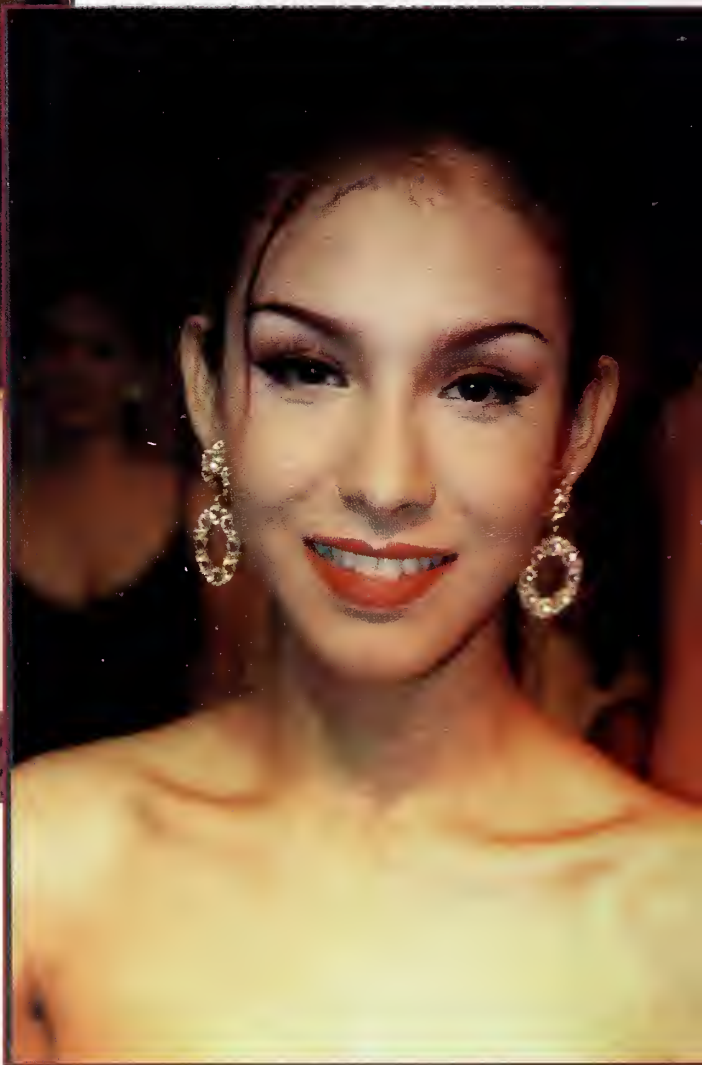
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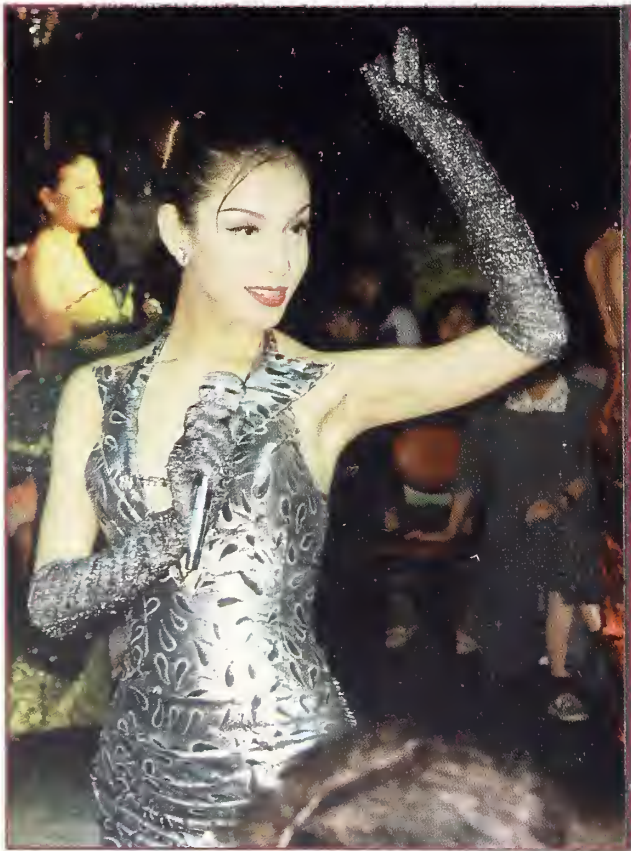
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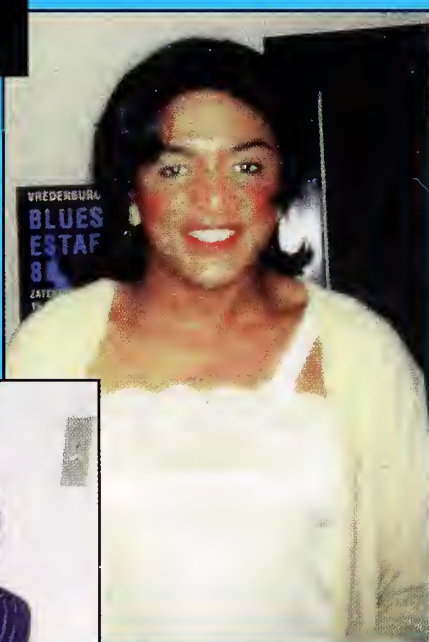


Mirror



Gina, Wis. FWD3264 ▲

Gina Allen, Ohio
Covergirl №26 ▼



Marlayna Lacie (L.A.) & JoAnn
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Michelle Ross



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If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 with the photo. If there's an FWD number, write your letter, put it in a #9 envelope and **in pencil** write the FWD number on the front. For **each** letter to be forwarded, put your letter, the #9 envelope, correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at LadyLike Magazine, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.

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LadyLike



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◀ **Kelly Sheridan as
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The 1997 Princess of the Poconos (seated) and her Court ▼

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Stellar Photography

How to take you own photos and get great results by Stella V.

Quickly, go look at the photos on page 28. They're examples of self photography. These pictures give you some idea of what you can do by yourself with some imagination and self photography. I will cover the basics of self portraiture. I will go over the basic tools of taking the picture, what you need and what will work. Then I will discuss "how to" for positioning, framing, and focusing. Finally, I'll discuss how to get a basic idea of what your finished photo will look like.

Basic equipment for self portraiture include a camera, a tripod (or other means of holding the camera in place), and a flash if you are going to shoot indoors. Other handy items are a mirror and an adjustable stand. The most important piece of equipment is the camera. The most popular cameras in use today are 35mm so I will limit myself to this format. You can do self-photography with some point & shoot cameras, but a 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) is much more versatile. The camera doesn't have to be fancy, but there are a few features that will prove useful. You will need a self-timer, a tripod mount, and a flash attachment.

A self-timer is essential for self-photography. Newer cameras are now come with adjustable self timers with up to a 30 second delay. A helpful option is an audible warning to let you know when the shutter will release. Older cameras often have a mechanical self-timer that allows you from 5 to 10 seconds to get ready.

An alternative to the self-timer is a remote cable release. Most older SLR's have the capability to connect a remote cable to trigger the shutter. Longer remote cables are over 30 feet in length and consist of a squeeze bulb with plastic tubing and an adapter that connects to the shutter release button on the camera. When the bulb is squeezed, air pressure triggers the camera shutter. The only problem with a remote is hiding the cord so it doesn't show in the picture.

If you have a camera with cable release capability, but no self timer, you can purchase a self timer that will mount on to your cable release for about \$30. The separate mounted self timer is better than using a remote cord, unless it takes you more than 10 to 15 seconds to pose.

You will find that the majority of cameras, including point and shoot models, have a mounting socket on the bottom. The mounting socket is used to attach the camera to a tripod. Having the camera on a tripod is essential for

positioning when you are doing self-photography. A reasonably sturdy tripod will serve to hold the camera stable during a photograph, it will also come in handy for another function that I will discuss later.

I mentioned before that 35mm SLR's are much more versatile than the point and shoot models. Some of the advantages of the SLR are through the lens viewing; the capability to mount filters on the lens; the ability to change lenses; and also a greater variation of use with different flash units. In addition, most SLR's will allow greater flexibility with controls and a more accurate idea of what will be exposed on each frame.

If you are like me, part of the fun of crossdressing is capturing a new look, wig or an outfit on film. I started out with a very simple setup. My first photos were so out of focus that I looked like a splotch from of an impressionist painting. There were pictures that made my bouffant hairdo look like a flat top. Then there were the photos with the lovely female form that seemed to stop abruptly just below the chin. I solved this dilemma by putting together an adjustable stand-in. The stand-in was made with a piece of metal conduit, a wooden dowel, a wig stand for a head, and a jug of water to hold the contraption in place. These

days my stands are easier to use and I don't worry about spilling a half of gallon of water on the carpet. Figure 1 shows two examples of adjustable stand-ins. The one that I was adjusting is actually a fold up music stand that I purchased at a flea market for a couple of dollars. I took the top section off



Fig. 1 – The Stand-in

and found that a quarter inch dowel would fit snugly in the middle. A rubber band allows me to make fine adjustments. The other stand was makeshift for this article. I used an adjustable paint roller extension handle, and in this particular instance it is being held up against the wall by one of my camera bags. You can put together your own stand-in quite easily, with readily available materials. You want it to be adjustable so you can vary the height to compensate for different shoes or if you want a sitting pose.

The stand-in serves two purposes, framing and focusing. First, I adjust the height of the stand-in so it equals my own height. I put the stand in front of the background where I wish to do my self portrait. I now have an accurate way to focus and adjust the camera so I know how much of me will be in the picture when the camera clicks.

When I check the framing through the view finder I make sure that I give myself some a little room especially at the top and sides of the picture. Putting some extra space in the picture will help compensate for what is lost when the print is made. You may have to move the camera several times before you get the length of view that you want.

You may be able to adjust your view by adjustment of a zoom lens. One word of caution in using a zoom lens, try to avoid using the shorter focal lengths for portraiture. For example you might find that you can get a full length view from only 6 feet away with a 28mm lens. The print you get back will be distorted because of the short focal length. For best results try to move the camera back as far as possible and use a longer focal length, at least 50mm for full length shots and 85mm to 135mm for head shots.

The next part of the process involves an inexpensive four foot mirror. The mirror helps me to check my pose. In Figure 2 you can see me tilting the mirror against the camera tripod so I will

have a full length view of myself when I am in place for the picture. Once the mirror is in place I practice my pose until I find one I like, I do this before starting the camera timer. I usually check my focus and framing one last time before I take my picture. If using a manual focus camera, I will move the stand-in out of the picture after my final adjustments and place something on the floor to hold my spot. The important thing is to make sure I go back to that same spot when I take my pose for the picture.

If you use an auto focus camera you may run into a problem. You set up your frame and focus, then practice your pose and mark your spot. After any final adjustments you have a couple of options. You may need to turn the auto focus off; if you don't the camera will refocus again when you start the self timer. The focus will be fine if the stand-in is in place, but if it has been moved the camera focuses again on what ever is in front of the lens. You move back to your marked spot but the camera stays focused on the wall three feet behind you. You will get prints with a nice looking wall and a blurry person in front. If you turn the auto focus off after your final adjustments then the focus stays where you left it.

Your other option with an auto focus camera is to set your self timer for a longer time delay and leave the stand-in in place until after the timer is started. The longer time delay will give you enough time to move the stand and take up your pose. The camera will focus when the timer is started and hold the focus until the shot is made. To prevent interference with the auto focus make sure you are not directly in front of the camera lens when you start the timer.

Quickly check your pose then make sure that you aren't looking down at the mirror when the shot is made. If you look at my double exposure photo you will see that I made the error of not looking back up after checking my pose. The downward glance is a bit distracting.

Well, there you have it, some of the basics of self photography. It will take some practice to get good pictures, but it is worth the time when you get prints that you really like. If there is enough interest I can put together future articles on how to do multiple exposures (you can be beside yourself), lighting and how to cut down on beard shadow in your photographs, or how to put together your own soft focus filters for glamour photography.



Fig. 2 – Adjusting the mirror

Stellar Photography



all photos are of Stella and are © Stellar Photography and used by permission.



Mirror Will



Cheryl Easton, MA FWD3184 ▲



Claudia, Germany ▲ claudia@transw.central.de

Send
US
Your
Photos



Diane V, N. Va. ▼



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Skirt (Style

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TV VIDEO REVIEWS

Crossdressing at the movies with Laurie Ann



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. The Crying Game; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; To Wong Foo..., and M. Butterfly are recent releases that have achieved some degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects — crossdressing.

Ladyboys

For many of us, the first time we dressed up was a game. It was just another form of make believe, like we played on Halloween. After all, it was play acting, and what was wrong with play acting? Life seemed to be a stage and everyday we could be someone different. We could be warriors, pilots, teachers, doctors, cowboys, and fathers. The possibilities were endless. A few of us even explored the idea of being another gender. Transforming into an actress, heroine, mother, or a little sister seemed merely changing one's costume.

It wasn't long before we discovered that boys who, even on rare occasions, experimented with playing a girl's role, were considered a bit strange. If they displayed any other feminine inclinations they were soon branded with the dreaded "S" word—sissy. One could be a smart aleck, a liar, cheat, or even a bully. But being labeled a sissy was the worst.

Those of us who continued to find femininity and dressing fascinating learned to hide it. It was our well kept secret from our families and friends. As we grew older we sought answers to the "why" of our curious, but delightful, passion. Some of us prowled our local libraries in search of answers. To our dismay we found out what little was written about us was not flattering. Psychiatrists wrote

about us and considered crossdressing to be one of a variety of behaviors called "sexual perversions." We were lumped in with child molesters, sadists, and a variety of other behaviors we never dreamed existed.

Our worst suspicion was confirmed—we were all wacko. It was very depressing to know that we were "crippled," but we went on anyway. Each of us employed a wide variety of strategies for coping. Quite a few of us refused to stop dressing. If we were crazy, what the heck.

What we didn't know back then was that Western psychiatry had a narrow and biased view of sex and gender. Psychiatry's conception of sex and gender was a worm's eye view. What was needed was a bird's eye view in order to put sex and gender into perspective. Such a view was available. All one needed to do was look at non-Western cultures, past and present. For many of these cultures crossgendered behavior was not pathological. In fact, some cultures perceived crossgendered individuals as desirable and beneficial to the tribe, or social group.

For example, the Zuni Indians believed that gender was acquired, and not biologically determined. The Zuni provided for a third gender which they called Ihamana. Anthropologists term such people berdache, and one can

continued next page



More photos of Ladyboys by Miki from New Zealand

find the berdache tradition present in nearly every region of North America.

In the South Pacific Samoan Islands there are the Fa'afafine, which literally means "way of a woman." It is estimated that one Samoan family in five has a son who is selected to be raised as a girl. The tradition is centuries old. Such "made women" are fully accepted by Samoan society and are often more educated than the average Samoan.

The 1992 BBC documentary *Ladyboys* gives a glimpse into being crossgendered in a non-Western society. *Ladyboys* tells the story of two boys, Tang and Dod, ages sixteen and seventeen. Both are Katoï, which means transvestite. It is not a psychiatric term, but a generic one for boys who dress as girls. The narrator, speaking for Tang, informs us that Katoï have historically been accepted as part of Thai society.

The film begins with many Katoï arriving at a large outdoor theater to participate in a beauty contest. Some are beautifully dressed; others in male attire. This is one of many Katoï contests held throughout Thailand. This contest is being held in the undeveloped Northern region.

Beauty contests for Katoï are frequent events in Thailand. Each night for a week 200 to 300 contestants, an astounding number, will compete to be chosen as a finalist for the chance to be the region's Katoï beauty queen. Only one "girl" will be chosen from over a thousand Katoï.

Why would more than a thousand young boys from rural areas of Thailand enter such a contest? Tang explains that life is difficult and the vast majority live at, or near, the poverty level. He says, "Winning would be our passport out of here to fame and fortune, to the cabarets in the big cities. It would be a steppingstone to a new life."

The contestants parade in front of the judges. There is a very large audience of males, females, young, old, and



even children. The "girls" in the contest range from average looking to incredibly beautiful. Their attire varies from expensive gowns to simple dresses. All are very feminine in their mannerisms, and quite convincing as lovely young girls. Both Tang and Dod are among those who are very soft and pretty. They are selected as finalists.

While waiting for the finals, we're taken on a visit to Tang and Dod's village. Tang works in a candle factory where he earns about \$2.50 a week. We meet two of Tang's uncles. Both are retired cabaret performers but they have not given up the enjoyment of wearing female attire, and they continue to live as women. They give Tang advice on becoming a cabaret performer.

Dod has worked for five years as a laborer in a slaughter house. The pay is slightly less than Tang's. As with all the uneducated boys in the region, such dead-end labor jobs are all that's available. There are two avenues of escape. One is to be a Katoï cabaret performer. The other is kick boxing, which can be lucrative if a boy is talented.

Dod has provided a place in his home for young Katoï boys to dress. He helps them and gives advice. There is a scene in the documentary of Dod and teen Katoï boys. They are seen giggling and joking as they admire Dod's wardrobe. Watching intently are three pre-teen Katoï boys. Dod counsels them that, "It's all right to dress like a woman, use

creams on your skin and dress nicely. If you want to dress like me I'll show you how. When I was a child I never played boy's games. I wore makeup and played with the girls." Following this is a scene where Dod helps one of the boys (about 10 years old) to dress up. He makes up his face, and then puts a wig on him. Dod says, "What a pretty girl." And she is pretty. The transformed boy smiles broadly and clearly expresses delight in his feminine appearance.

The night of the finals arrives. The outdoor pavilion is packed. Supposedly, the ex-Prime Minister is in the audience. Tang and Dod have worked very hard to appear very beautiful. Unfortunately, neither of them wins. Tang laments, "We were hopelessly upstaged. We didn't stand a chance because there were so many beautiful Katoi." The winner is absolutely gorgeous and would probably be a finalist in a major beauty contest for genetic women.

Undaunted, the two boys head south on a train to the coastal city of Paitaya. There Tang auditions at Alcazar, which he describes as "a palace dominating the city's skyline... where every night thousands of tourists come to feast their eyes on the Ladyboys." Although he has an introduction from his uncles, he is not hired. He is told, "Take the pill, let your hair grow and try again next year."

Dod is more successful. He obtains a job in a lesser drag bar playing a clownish ugly sister. It is a long way from his

dream of becoming a glamorous cabaret star. Dod is shown noting which tourists could be possible dates after the show. The film ends with the implication that both boys will sell their beauty to men who fancy Ladyboys. As Tang explains, "Success and failure are two sides of the same coin. Dod was just learning the game and so was I."

Throughout *Ladyboys* the narrator tells us the traditional acceptance of the Katoi by Thai society may be a thing of the past. Thailand has an extremely high incidence of AIDS. This epidemic, along with Western technology and values, are influencing the direction of the country. Hence, the moral climate is changing, and with this change a visible minority, the Katoi, may be driven underground.

It is a tragedy that ladyboys, berdache, she-males, whatever term one may use, are, for the most part, excluded from the mainstream of society. But the tragedy may be even greater. As the anthropologist Will Roscoe has pointed out, the mythology and ceremony associated with the berdache tradition was, "... a profound healing, a reconciliation of the most fundamental rift that divides human from human-gender."

Thanks to JoAnn Wilson in Australia for telling me about the video, as well as providing me with her insights about the Katoi. *Ladyboys* is available from Critics Choice Video.



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U.S. Support Groups

Our listings are the most up-to-date. Please keep us informed of any changes or additions. Thanks!

National US Membership Organizations

American Educational Gender Information Service, PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. Publishes Chrysalis, AEGISNews, and several pamphlets on transgender issues. Also book sales. Extensive referral network for all transgender issues. Phone: 770-939-2128. Call in evening. AEGIS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization affiliated with Renaissance <aegis@mindspring.com> <http://www.cren.org/rafil/AEGIS.html>

International Foundation for Gender Education, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02254. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@ifge.org> <www.ifge.org>

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$24 includes a 24-page monthly newsletter *Renaissance News & Views*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(*)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <http://www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the *Femme Mirror* quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "*" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jefftris@aol.com> <http://www.firststhou.com/brenda>

Alabama

Madison County Gender Center, c/o Metropolitan Community Church, 3015 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville AL 35810. Phone: 205-851-6914. <keriala@aol.com>.

Alaska

Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, P.O. Box 670349, Chugiak, 99567

Arizona

Alpha Zeta#, PO Box 1738, Tempe, 85280-1738. Phone: 602-488-0959; <css@tri-ess.org>.

A Rose, PO Box 1738, Tempe, 85280-1738. Phone: 602-488-0959.

Evolvere, Tucson, AZ. Phone: (520) 884-0541 <SharleneA@aol.com>.

Tau Upsilon#, 8802 E Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, 85710. Phone: (520) 296-3472.

California

3rd Sect (FTM support), write c/o Sacto. Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, 95821-1456, <stymie@netcom.com>.

Alpha Chapter#, PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, 90036.

American Transsexual Education Center: A.T.E.C., 1626 N. Wilcox Ave, #584, Hollywood CA 90028 Amanda Silvestri, Dir., Phone: (213) 389-6938.

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, 90048, Phone: 213-467-8317, <Shirley@earthlink.net>.

Androgyny East, Inland Empire area. Call 909-737-5889 ask for Sara, <michelle@pe.net>.

Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517 Phone: 909-875-2687.

CD Social Group, PO Box 224, Montrose, CA 91021

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, 90808, <CHICSoCal@aol.com>.

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, 94527-2885. Phone: (510) 937-8432 7-9 pm.

ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, 94142-6486, <www.transgender.org/tg/etvc/etvc1.html>.

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816. Phone: (310) 869-4241

Ladies Knight Out, P O Box 19608-179, Irvine CA 92713, CD couples' support, (714) 262-9105.

Neutral Corner, P O Box 19008, San Diego CA 92112. Phone: (619) 685-3696.

Omega Chi# (Orange County, CA), P O Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686.

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, 92686, <www.ren.org/ppoc.html>.

Rainbow Gender Alliance, PO Box 700730, San Jose, 95170-0730, <www.transgender.org/tg/riga/rqapage.html>.

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, 95821, <ava4sga@aol.com>.

San Joaquin Gender Assoc., 1141 Catalina Drive Box 163, Livermore CA 94550. (510) 447-9920.

Sigma Sigma Beta#, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151.

Swan's Inner Sorority, P O Box 1423, San Jose CA 95109. Phone: (408) 297-1423

TGIF, meets in Santa Rosa. Call 707-544-1540 or <gad@crl.com>.

Transsexual Support Group, The Center Long Beach, 2017 East 4th Street, Long Beach, CA. 90814.

TS Support Group in Fresno. MtF or FtM - Call Carrie @ 209-275-8944

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, P O Box 6541, San Jose CA 95150-6541.

Tri Chi#, P O Box 194, Tulare CA 93275. Phone: 209) 688-9246.

U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club, P.O. Box 3182, Cerritos, CA 90703-3182 <www.tgworld.tierranet.com>

Colorado

Delta#, PO Box 16208, Denver, 80216. Phone: (303) 595-5TRI <mystie@aol.com>.

Gender Identity Center, Inc., 1455 Ammons Street, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215 <kathyw@fortnet.org>.

Phoenix Project 1740 South Buckley Road, #6-178, Aurora CO 80017.

Teenage Kids of TS, TAKOTS, c/o Laurie Cicotello, 1740 S. Buckley Road #6-178, Aurora CO 80017.

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, 06034. Phone (203) 657-4344 <karaader@aol.com>.

connecticutView (!), PO Box 2281, Devon, 06460. <MasonID@aol.com>, <www.ren.org/ctv.html>.

Twenty (XX) Club Inc.(TS), PO Box 387, Hartford, 06141-0387, <www.intelleng.com/xx.html>

Gender Identity Clinic of New England, GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester CT 06040. Clinton R. Jones, Director. Phone: 203-646-8651.

Delaware

Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, 19808, 302-376-1990 <sadeed@aol.com> <www.ren.org>.

Florida

Animas, P O Box 420309, Miami 33242.

Eden Society, PO Box 1692, Pompano Beach, FL 33061-1692 Ph: 305-784-9316, edents@aol.com

Gamma Chi Beta#, Gulf Coast Belles, PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches c/o Compass, 1700 N Dixie Hwy, W Palm Beach, FL 33407. Phone: 561-833-3638 <RhondaWil@aol.com>.

Phi Epsilon Mu#, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, 32790-3261. Phone: 407-382-8389 <denisesfl@aol.com>.

Serenity, PO Box 307, Hollywood, 33022. Phone: (954) 436-9477.

Tau Lambda#, P O Box 3426, Tallahassee 32315-3426, <petrad@freenet.tl.fl.us>.

The Ladies Club of Florida (TLC), P.O. Box 372711 Satellite Beach, FL 32937 <HaleighTG@aol.com>

Georgia

AGE(!), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, 30357, Ph: 770-435-4203, <www.transgender.org/tg/age/index.html>

Sigma Epsilon#, PO Box 272, Rosewell, 30077-0272, Ph: 770-552-4415.

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, 96812. Phone: (808) 923-4270 <lgahawaii@poi.net>.

Idaho

Idaho Transgender Society, PO Box 7353, Boise, Idaho 83707-1353 Phone: 208-331-6669. <caufo@micron.net> or <alicialp@aol.com>.

Iowa

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, 52406
River City Gender Alliance, RCGA, P O Box 680, Council Bluffs IA 51502. 402-398-1255.

Illinois

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 126, Washington, 61517. Phone: (309) 444-9918.

Chi#, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, 60191-0040. Phone: 708-364-9514

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, 60657, (708) 863-7714, <www.transgender.org/tg/cgs/cgsmain.html>

Outpost TransGender Group, 123 W Church Champaign, IL 61825. (217)-359-5113

Sunday Society, P O Box 478850, Chicago IL 60647. Phone: (312) 486-3125 or (312) 252-7024.

Transgender Significant Others, 123 West Church Street, Champaign IL 61825; 217-328-4469 <www.prairienet.org/~star/tgso.html> <straf@uiuc.edu>

Indiana

IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, 46220. (812) 876-5635 (Gloria), (812) 460-0694 (Gerri), Voice mail (317) 971-6976 <ixc@aol.com>.

T.O.N.I., Transgender Outreach of Northern Indiana, Ltd, PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368. 219-929-8533 <jenfermaes1@juno.com>.

Kansas

KC Crossdressers & Friends, PO Box 4092, Overland Park, 66204. Phone: (913) 791-3847

Wichita Transgender Alliance, POB 3002, Wichita KS 67201.(316) 688-0816. <LaylaJ@AOL.com>.

Kentucky

Bluegrass Belles, PO Box 20173, Louisville, Ky 40250. <Dwils00@ukcc.uky.edu>.

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance(!), PO Box 56836, New Orleans LA 70156-6836. Ph: (504) 833-3046 <GGANOLA@aol.com>

Maine

Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor ME 04402-1894. Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101.

Maryland

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, P O Box 11737, Baltimore MD 21206-0337.

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore, c/o Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore, 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore MD 21201. Phone: (410) 837-5445, or switchboard 7-10pm (410) 837-8888.

Tri-State Transgendered Club, c/o Diane Terrant, PO Box 3102, Deer Park MD 21550-1002. Phone: (301) 453-3538.

continued next page

Resources

Maryland – cont'd.

Washington - Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 1994
Silver Spring Maryland, 20915.
<HGartin725@aol.com>.

Massachusetts

Investments , (Cape Cod area), PO Box 2194,
Orleans, 02653.

Reflections, PO Box 4002, East Dedham, 02026.

Sunshine Club,P.O. Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035-
0564. 413-586-5004 <AE907@yfn.jsu.edu>.

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 2283,
Woburn, 01888. (617) 891-9325 <www.tcne.org/>

Transgendered Alliance, (TGA), PO Box 38-1005,
Cambridge, 02238.

Michigan

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, 48068-1245.
Phone: (313) 537-3267

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand
Rapids, 49501. <www.iserv.net/~ime>

Gender Explorers, c/o Office of Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs, 3116 Michigan
Union, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1349

Minnesota

Beta Gamma#, PO Box 8591, Minneapolis, MN
55408. (612) 8708536, triessbg@tri-ess.com..

CLCC, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis, 55416. Phone:
612-933-5288

MFGE, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, 55117. Phone:
(612) 220-9072 (voicemail).

New Men & Women of Minnesota, PO Box 6432,
Minneapolis, 55406-0432. Phone: (612) 220-1920.

Mississippi

AURORA Transgender Support (Central Mississippi),
PO Box 1306, Florence MS 39073. Phone: (601)
845-1328 or <KBrown3813@aol.com>.

Beta Chi#, PO Box 31253, Jackson, 39286-1253.
Phone: (601) 982-7678 (24 hrs).

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St.
Louis, 63117,(314) 367-4128. <SLGF@aol.com>.

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, P. O. Box 3112, Omaha
68103. 402-398-1255, <sgibbons@synergy.net>.

Nevada

Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256 Reno, NV
89511-8981 <carly4@x.netcom.com>.

Silver Rose Gender Association. Contact, Lynda
Cheney, P.O. Box 1334 Carson City, NV, 89702

Theta Upsilon Gamma#, PO Box 91871, Henderson,
89009-1871. <sage@intermind.net>.

Transgender Support, Las Vegas, c/o Community
Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane (702)
392-2132, <lisat696@aol.com>.

New Hampshire

GT North PO Box 421, Peterborough, NH 03458.
Contact Pat Wells <gtnorth@top.monad.net>

New Jersey

Chi Delta Mu#, PO Box 1, River Edge, 07661-0001.
Phone: 800-484-7593 (code 4985),
<cdm@carroll.com>.

MOTG(!), PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972,
Ph: 908-219-9094 <users.aol.com/vikkimotg>
<Vikkimotg@aol.com>

NJ Support, (Washington Crossing) – contact Susan
W. at PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045. Phone:
(973) 334-0416, <Susanw796@aol.com>.

Sigma Nu Rho#, 1092 St. Georges Ave., Suite 234,
Rahway, NJ 07065. 800-480-3152,
<tris@mcione.com>.

New Mexico

Phi (Fiesta)!, 8200 Montgomery NE, #241,
Albuquerque, 87109. Phone: (505) 299-2533.

New York

Buffalo Belles#, NuPhiChi, PO Box 1701, Amherst,
14226. Phone: (716) 643-2626.

CD•Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, 14692.
Phone: (716) 251-2132.

EON Inc., PO Box 3586, Syracuse, NY 13220-3586.
Phone: (315) 423-4099.

Gender Identity Project, Lesbian and Gay
Community Services Center, 208 West 13th Street,
New York, 10011. Phone: (212) 620-7310.

Lambda Chi Lambda#, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown,
13326. (607) 547-4118, <StuComOne@aol.com>.

L.I.F.E.,Box 1311, Wayermill, NY 11976-1311. (516)
283-1333, <JoEd2Viola@aol.com>.

Metropolitan Gender Network(!), 561 Hudson St.,
Box 45, New York, 10014. Phone: (201) 794-1665
ext. 332, or (718) 461-9050.

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, 12212-3604. Phone:
(518) 436-4513.

Transgender Society of Northern New York, PO Box
413, Beaver Falls, NY 13305. Phone: 315-376-7662.

North Carolina

Kappa Beta#, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, 28220-2101.
Phone: (704) 565-5034 <dajones@InfoAve.net>.

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332,
Asheville, 28814. Phone: (704) 259-9428.

Tau Gamma#, P.O.Box 25282, Raleigh, NC 27611

Ohio

Alpha Omega#, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake,
44054-0053. Phone: (216) 556-0067.

Cross-Port, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati OH 4520.
(606) 581-3711. <WGBN68D@prodigy.com>.

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Columbus, 43068. Phone:
(614) 231-1368, <ccc@stargate.com>

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, 44129.
<paradisedi@aol.com>.

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, (COTA),
PO Box 60354, Oklahoma City, 73146.

Oregon

Choices and Voices, 212 High St., Salem, Oregon
97303. (503) 373-4415 <pcb4reb@sprynet.com>.

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524
Monroe Avenue, La Grande.541-963-7732,
<keol@esc.osshe.edu>.

Phoenix Rising Foundation, The Trans Group (for
TS/TG/TV and questioning youth), 620 SW 5th Ave.,
Suite 710 , Portland, Oregon 97204. Phone: (503)
223-8299.

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland,
97208.(503) 646-2802 <nwga@teleport.com>.

Trans-Port, PO Box 66913, Portland, 97290. Phone:
(503) 774-8463.

Capital City Chapter, PO Box 3312, Salem, OR
97302 (please include an SSAE).

Pennsylvania

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th Street/Suite 261, Erie, PA
16505. <esc@conline.net>.

The Gender Group of Pittsburgh at the Persad
Center, 5150 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232.
Contact Cheryl at: 412-362-1638

Gender Transgressors, c/o Ben Singer, 1123 W.
Orianna Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Phone:
215-922-5943 <bensinger@eden.rutgers.edu>.

OASIS, PO Box 622, Meadville, PA 16335.

Phila. TS Support Group , PO Box 15839,
Philadelphia PA 19103. Phone: (215) 567-7879.

Renaissance GPC, Greater Phila. Chapter, 987 Old
Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, 19087. Phone:
(610) 975-9119, <angela@ren.org>.

Renaissance LSV, Lower Susquehanna Valley
Chapter, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, 17105. Phone:
(717) 780-1578. <lsv@ezonline.com>.

Renaissance LV, Lehigh Valley Chapter, PO Box
3624, Allentown, PA 18106. Call 610-821-2955

TransFamily, c/o Deni Scott, 962 Rockdale Road,
Butler, PA 16001. Phone: 412-758-3578 (Janet)
<dscott@pgh.net>.

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn
Circle South, Pittsburgh, 15206. Phone: (412) 661-
7030, <bsg@usaor.net>.

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, 15230. Phone:
(412) 224-6015.

Tennessee

Alpha Pi Omega#, PO Box 784, Brentwood, 37204

Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, 37209.
Phone: 664-6883, <www.transgender.org/tg/tvals/
index.html>

Memphis TransGender Alliance, P.O. Box 11052,
Memphis, TN 38111-0052

Texas

Alpha Tau,(Austin), PO Box 2753, Cedar
Park,78630-2753.(512) 331-5147. [9704]

Boulton & Park Society, PO Box 17, Bulverde,
78163. (830) 980-7788 <www.flash.net/~btxp/>

Central Texas Transgender Society, 2900 W.
Anderson Lane, Suite 127, Austin, Texas 78757
Phone: 512/451-7763 <Bobbi@ccsi.com>.

GCTC, PO Box 90335, Houston, 77090. Phone:
(713) 780-GCTC, (713) 780-4282 voice.

HCDA (Helping CDs Anon.), 6804 E Hwy 6 S #334,
77083. <brenda@firstnethou.com>.

Metroplex CD Club/Delta Omega#, Bldg 106, Ste
144, 7120 Rufe Snow Dr, Wautauga, TX 76148-
1862. (214) 264-7103, <domiss@flash.net>.

Nu Epsilon Tau#, PO Box 14096, Pantego, 76094.
(214) 490-5738,

ReCast, PO Box 224001, Dallas, 75222-4001.

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (TATs), PO Box 142,
Bellaire, 77401. Phone: (713) 827-5913 voice mail.

Tau Chi#, 8800 Bellaire B2, Ste. 104, Houston,
TX 77036. <TriSInfo@aol.com>.

West Texas Gender Alliance c/o Tami Maloney, PO
Box 6726, Abilene TX 79608.

Utah

Salt Lake Gender Consortium, PO Box 651073, Salt
Lake City, 84165. [9707]

Reflection House, PO Box 628, Pleasant Grove,
84062. Phone/FAX: (801) 224-4737.

Virginia

Ladies First, 7138 Little River Turnpike, Ste. 1820,
Annandale, VA 22003. Contact Laura Meeks at 540-
720-7523 <Laurabcd@aol.com>.

Metro Area Gender Alliance, MAGA, PO Box 16036,
Arlington, 22215. Phone: (301) 949-3822.

Richmond Transformers - Transforming Female to
Male - C/O Gray - Phone (804) 288-5502 [9709]

TransGender Education Association (TGEA), P.O.
Box 16036, Arlington, Virginia 22215. Phone:(301)
949-3822 <TGEA@aol.com>.

Washington (state)

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, 98103. (206)
284-1071, <members.aol.com/theemcity/>

Futurebuilders, c/o April Bresgal, N. 111 Cedar St.,
Spokane, WA 99201. Phone: 509-456-2517.

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite
106, Seattle, 98122 <ingersoll@halycon.com>.

Papillon TG Support, PO Box 1365, Spokane, WA.
(509) 458-2741 <papillonsg@geocities.com>

Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, TLF, Seattle (no
street addressd). Phone: (206) 292-1037.

West Virginia

The Valley Girls, PO Box 181, Dunbar, WV 25064-
0181. Phone (304) 340-3512 [9707].

Trans-WV, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25724.

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group. PO Box 44211, Milwaukee.
53214. Phone: (414) 297-9328 (voicemail).

Wyoming

Central WY Transgender Support Group, P.O. Box
1301, Evansville, WY 82636-1301

Canadian Support Groups

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.

Illusions Club (peer support & info), PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.

Illusions Club II (peer support & info), Box 33002, Edmonton T5P-4V8

British Columbia

Dream Girls, P.O. Box 535, Kamloops, V2C 5L7.

Combury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1, Phone: 604-415-2767.

Foundation for the Advancement of Trans-Gendered People's Society (FATE) 1-1727 William Street, Vancouver, V5L 2R5. Phone: +1 (604) 254-9591.

Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Manitoba

Prairie Rose Gender Club, PO Box 23 Grp 4 RR1, Dugald, R0E 0K0. Phone: +1 (204) 257-2759.

Ontario

Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715, Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3. Contact by email only at this time genmet@adan.kingston.net.

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Vanier, Ontario K1L 8E4. Ph: (819) 770-1945
<gender_mosaic@canadamail.com>

Transition Support, c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, M4Y 2C9.

Street Outreach Services, 805, 622 Yonge St., 2nd Fl, Toronto, M4Y 1Z8. Phone: +1 (416) 926-0744 (24 hours).

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2, Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8. Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874

FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

TransPORRS (Post Op Recovery Residence), 475 Blvd Gouin Ouest, Montreal, H3L 1K4.

THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April '98

3 - 5, Eastern Region Meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality in Boston, Mass. Contact: Jean Levitan, Ph.D., Dept. of Community Health, Wm. Paterson U. of NJ, Wayne, NJ 07470. Phone: 973-720-2216. FAX: 973-721-2215 or email to levitanj@nebula.wilpaterson.edu

3 - 5, 5th International Bisexual Conference, Cambridge, Mass. Contact: Biversity Boston, c/o Gay Community News, 229 Stanhope St., Boston, MA 02116. Call: (617)424-9595, or email info@biconf.org.

17 - 19, Dogwood Weekend, Holiday Inn Central, 418 Armour Drive, Atlanta, GA. Send check or money order for \$20 registration to AGE, P.O. Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357. For further information, call 770-517-0265 (evenings) or send e-mail to ageinfo@aol.com.

24 - 26, Midwest Trans Institute, Social, Political, and Educational Hobnobbing for Gender Transgressors and Our Friends. Contact: MWTRANS, P.O. Box 2104 Loop Station, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0104. 612-362-3581 (voice/tty) 612-871-2650 (FAX). MWTRANS@aol.com.

30 - 5/3, Cal Dreamin' 1998, Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, San Francisco, Calif. Contact: PPOC, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686, or ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, 94142

May '98

7 - 10, Gender Mosaic 10th Anniversary Party. Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4. Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945 or email to: gender_mosaic@canadamail.com.

20 - 24, 9th Annual Esprit, Port Angeles, Washington. Contact Esprit, PO Box 1101, Renton, WA 98057.

28 - 31, TCNE Spring Fling, in Provincetown, Mass. Contact: Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 2283, Woburn, 01888-0483. Phone: (617) 891-9325 (answered live Tuesdays 7 - 10 PM Eastern Time).

June '98

7, 6th Annual Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride and Street Festival, Jackson Hts, NY. Contact: Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee, PO Box 580445, Flushing NY 11358. Phone: 718-997-6778; or send email to johnqlgpc@aol.com.

10 - 14, 16th Annual Be All You Want to Be Weekend Pittsburgh, PA. Hosted by Transpitt, P.O. Box 15408, Pittsburgh PA 15237, 412-242-5902.

11 - 14, Western Regional Meeting Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Honolulu, HI. SSSS-Western Region, 2111 Lido Circle, Stockton, CA 95207-6014 or email to: airsafe@gotnet.net.

19 - 21, Gender, Sexuality, and Law Conference, Keele University, Staffordshire, United Kingdom. Contact: GSL98 Conference, Department

of Law, Keele University, Staffordshire ST5 5BG, England, UK. Phone: 01782-593218, FAX 01782-593228, or send email to: GSL98@keele.ac.uk.

20, Pittsburgh PrideFest '98, Pittsburgh, Pa. Festival in Mellon Park. Contact: Three Rivers Pride, PO Box 81207, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. Phone: 412-422-3060.

28, 29th Annual New York City Pride March, New York City, NY. Phone: 212-80-PRIDE.

July '98

15 - 19, S.P.I.C.E.: Spouse'/Partners International Conference for Education in Atlanta, GA. For info call 510-235-7450 Pacific Time; 918-343-1953 Central Time; 215-860-9271 Eastern Time or send email to: melpeg@phoenix.net.

September '98

30 - 10/4, Southern Comfort Conference, Holiday Inn Atlanta Central, Atlanta, GA. Call 404-633-6470, or write to SCC, PO Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591, or email to sccatl@aol.com.

18 - 20, The Third International Congress on Sex and Gender, Exeter College, Oxford University. Jan Cobb, PFC BM network, London, WC1N 3XX Tel: +44 (0) 1473 421385 Fax: +44 (0) 1473 421386, or email to: Cong.book@pfc.org.uk.

October '98

Holiday En Femme, Minneapolis, Minn., CANCELLED. See Dignity Cruise X below.

3, Delaware Pride Festival, g/l/b/t communities, Noon - 6:00 pm, Rodney Square, Wilmington, Delaware. voice: (302)328-1391, or send e-mail to: PrideDel@aol.com.

15 - 17, Lavender Law Conference, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. Contact LAVLAW98@aol.com.

18 - 25, Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA. Contact: Alison Laing, P.O. Box 473 Portsmouth, RI 02871-0473 401-624-4317.

November '98

5 - 8, Paradise In The Poconos, fantasy getaway weekend. Contact: CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, call 610-640-9449 or email to: poco@cdspub.com.

5 - 8, Fall Harvest 1998, sponsored by City of Lakes Crossgendered Community in Minneapolis, Minn. For info contact: CLCC, PO Box 14844, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

8 - 13, Dignity Cruise X and Holiday at Sea II. Miami to Key West and the Bahamas. Contact: Cruises, Inc.: Barbara Arendt at 800-621-6699 or Mike Sinn at 800-818-7830.

If you have information about an event that you'd like us to post here and online, please write to us at the CDS office or send email to us at: info@cdspub.com



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Then & Now

Jillian Jacobs



▲ Visiting friends in 1975



▲ Jillian in 1979



▲ At a local FI show in 1980



▲ Thanksgiving 1984



▲ Oct. 1990, taking a continuing education class out of state.



▲ New Year's Eve 1996. She calls this her "JoAnn Roberts" look.

Flying Solo

A true life story by Rhonda Williams <RhondaWil@aol.com>

"You are out of control and need help!" This was my friend's comment as I explained my scheme, and I had to agree. This friend is also a crossdresser and I knew he would come up with just the words to inspire me. My plan was to fly from the east coast to the west coast as a female. Not a involved task for over fifty percent of the US population (female), but for me, this could be a challenge. I feel as rational as the next person. That in itself is probably not any great feat, but was this plan the thinking of someone whose wig was fitting too tight?

I had been traveling every week from Florida to California to work on a consulting contract, and maybe the four hours in the air had just become too routine. So why not add a little adventure to the trip and see what happens. I have been crossdressing and passing as a woman in malls, restaurants and theaters for about five years and think this could be as uneventful as every other flight. With the right outfit (executive business woman), the right confident attitude, and a good close shave, it could work.

The outfit was going to be a navy blue silk dress, a white jacket and navy blue mid-heeled pumps. A dark shoulder bag would carry the tickets, touch-up makeup and male ID. The flight would depart Florida at 4:00 PM and was going to make a connection in Dallas Texas, arriving in San Diego about 9:30 PM. This was a good schedule and I would be traveling Monday afternoon; a time when the planes were not usually full.

Everything was set, almost. I had traveled from California to Florida on

a ticket written for Tom. There was no way I could ask that another ticket be issued; this would open too many questions and make too much office gossip. If I had done more planning, the tickets could have been issued using my first initial, but it was too late for that now. I would just get the ticket rewritten at the gate as I departed, and hope the gate agent would not make a problem.

I had Lowell, the "You need Help" friend, take me to the airport and check my bags. As I watched my male clothes go out of sight, mild panic set in, and more than a few "what-if" questions came to mind.

What if the plane goes down?

What if they do not let me board?

What if they let me board here, but not in at my connection in Texas?

What if???????

"Your bags are checked. See you later Tom, I mean Rhonda," brought me back to the real world; well as close as I was going to get for the next six hours.

"Walk me to the gate?" I pleaded.

"No, you are on your own," Lowell said, and I was.

After clearing the metal detectors without the need of a strip search, I regained some of my composure. As I headed for the gate, a magazine caught my attention in the gift shop. *New Woman* seemed appropriate to my condition and maybe it would contain some helpful hints.

"You look great and there is no need to change the ticket," the female gate agent said. "I would not have known, if you had not told me." Life is great. I was floating on air and had not

left the gate yet.

After boarding, I settled into my window seat, checked my makeup, and began reading my *New Woman* instruction manual. A thirty-something man sat in my row of seats on the isle, and we exchanged smiles. I knew that this was all that would be required and he would not expect conversation unless I initiated it. It is interesting how women do have control from this standpoint.

"This is your Captain. There are thunderstorms in the Dallas area and we are going to delay our departure until we can get a landing time there. Our delay should not be more than twenty minutes." After forty-five minutes the captain said that anyone who wanted, could go back into the terminal and wait there.

I choose to stay on board along with several other women and did enjoy reading, *Woman's Day* and *COSMO*. I was just about to start on "Mechanics Illustrated" when the captain called reboarding. The gentleman sitting next to me had taken full advantage of the boarding area bar, and without hesitation started giving me his life's story. I knew that next, he might want my life's history and in his condition I knew he could not handle it. Also I knew that when we were above ten thousand feet he would be sound asleep and would leave me alone, so I kept the conversation to a minimum.

It was just about that time that I started to be concerned about what the delay had done to my connection in Dallas. I guessed that all flights had been delayed including my connect-



Rhonda

ing flight and I probably was safe. On the other hand, I also knew that landings in San Diego were limited after 11:00 PM and we would be very close making that arrival time. Much was going to depend on just how smooth everything would go in Dallas.

I relaxed, checked my makeup to make sure no beard was coming through, and enjoyed my dinner when it was served. Everything seemed different. Traveling as my male self, I always felt rushed and pushed. Tom, during the delay, would have been making business phone calls, trying to make other travel arrangements and would have been generally flustered by the way things were going. Today, I felt at ease, as if there really was nothing I could do to change things. For me it was quite a pleasant change.

As we were landing in Dallas the flight attendants called my flight number and requested that I report to a Los Angeles gate rather than my San Diego gate. Seeing that the new gate was quite a hike, I could at least be pleased that I had chosen a reasonable heel height. Other than being very rushed, the walk was uneventful and I felt like I was passing well as a woman. I also could see that everyone there that evening was having a problem in getting to their destination, and very little people watching

was going on.

When I got to the gate, it did not look good. With all of the delays, several southern California flights had been canceled and combined into one flight to LA. This was not a situation I had planned for. If I did not get on that flight to LA, the airline would put me in a hotel in Dallas and then fly me to San Diego in the morning. The choice would be mine, but I did not have a razor or enough makeup for the next day. Also I knew that checking in a hotel with only my male ID and credit cards could be tricky. So my only option was try to get to LA, and see what was next.

The gate agent, a man, did not even look up when I handed him my ticket. He told me I was on stand-by and he would call me for boarding. I looked around and there were fifteen or twenty others waiting, all men. Not all of us were going to fly that evening. I just stood at the counter and very quietly in my best feminine voice ask, "How does it look?" It took several seconds (seemed like hours) for him to respond, and not realizing that he had just taken my ticket, ask me for my name, and said he would check the computer for me.

"We are over-booked by twenty and would you be willing to fly tomorrow?" he asked.

In a firm and soft voice I said, "No."

He again asked for my name and said he would check my status for the flight. I gave him my last name and I could see him looking on the screen for a female of match up to the last name I had given. He then asked "What is your first name, please?"

By that time several others that were waiting had started moving closer to see what was going on, and to see if I was going to get on.

"T....O....M", I spelled slowly and

softly.

He now looked up for the first time and I had his exclusive attention.

To this day, I still do not know why he did what he did, but I will be ever appreciative to Delta Airlines for having such a sensitivity employee at that gate, that evening. More than once I have asked myself, "Did this really happen?" Yes, and in this case, fact is probably better than fiction could ever be.

He stopped everything he was doing, looked me straight in the eyes and said without hesitation said, "Follow me." We walked to the jetway, and he told the flight attendant taking tickets, "She is okay. I have her ticket and her boarding pass." He then walked me half the distance down to the plane, smiled, put his hand on my shoulder and told me, "Take any of the remaining seats. You will be fine."

"Thank you!" seemed so trite, but it was the only thing I could think of.

Two others got on and we were on our way to LA. When we arrived all of the San Diego passengers were put on a bus for a two hour ride to our final destination. On the bus, I was seated next to a very nice young mother who had a six month old baby with her. I could see the hour and the delays had both taken their toll on mother and baby. I asked if she would like me to hold the baby and at that point I think she would have given it to me to raise. The baby fell sound asleep in my arms. We all woke up just as we were pulling into the San Diego Airport Terminal nine hours late.

Although I have not had a burning need to repeat the trip in female fashion, it does remain as a memory I will not give up. All of us need to have the courage to venture out and safely live our lives without self imposed limits and fears.



Mirror Willol



▲ Diane, Ohio. DFN, Po Box 155,
Wellington, Ohio 44090



▲ Vicki, PO Box 11430
Toledo OH 43611

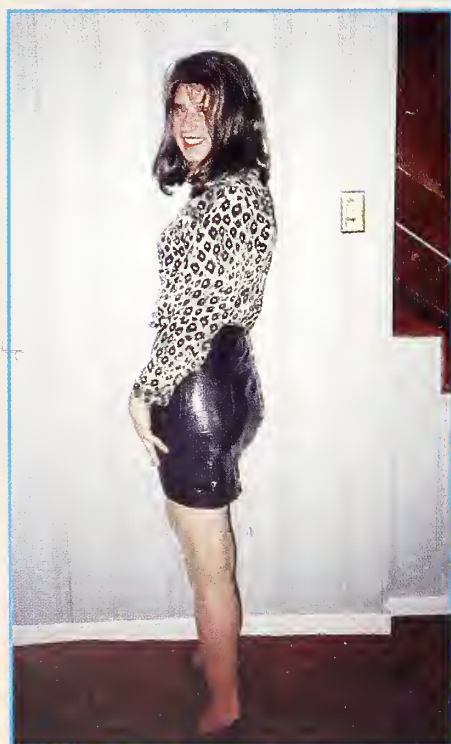


▲ Ellen McKinnon, PO Box
261326, San Diego CA 92196

▼ Rachael Sands, Iowa



▲ Chris, UK



▲ Staci Bledsoe, PO Box 665,
Little Rock AR 72203



◀ Debra King, PO Box 56
McLean VA 22101



▲ Leslie5643@aol.com



▲ Gloria, SE Pa.

Telzey Adams, PO Box 195,
Berkeley CA 94701 ▼



▲ Breeze, Hawaii

Tamara Velarde, 1610 8th St
Anacortes, WA 98221 ▼

▼ Gracia, SoCal FWD2992



Marilyn Vincent
Mass. ▼

Jayne, PO Box 17665
Richmond VA 23226



On My Mind...



Predicting the Future of the TG Community

Looking back over my last 12 years involvement with the transgender community, no one could have any of the events that have taken place in our community that have brought us together. I'll give you some personal examples.

In 1985 a small startup company started publishing a book for crossdressers. No one would

have predicted that single publication would turn into a major source of self-help information for the transgender community.

In 1987, a group of 13 people met in a suburb trying to establish for themselves a support group. One of the founders mused that if they had 50 members in 5 years they'd be doing great. No one would have predicted that little group would become a major national organization.

In 1989 there were four national TV/TS events advertised in the TV/TS press: Fantasia Fair, Be All, Coming Together and The Pocono Fantasy Weekend. These were sufficiently spread out over the year that there was little problem with conflicting schedules. No one would have predicted that within 5 years there would be nearly one major event a month somewhere in the United States.

In the early 80's there was Tri-Ess and there were the independent groups. No one could have predicted that by the early 90's there would be a flurry of new organizations that would spring up to serve the various segments of the TV/TS community.

All of the history of the TV/TS community up to the 90's was focused on Male to Female issues and needs. No one could have predicted the explosion of the Female to Male segment of our community (many did not believe they existed) and how it would affect our community's perception by the rest of the world.

In 1992, a transvestite or transsexual working for the government on classified jobs with Top Secret clearances would have been fired if discovered. No one would have predicted that the Department of Defense would change those rules to allow transgenders to keep their jobs.

In 1994, a transvestite or a transsexual could lose their job, home, access to their children, insurance and more if they were discovered. No one could have predicted that some companies, like AT&T, DEC, and others would actually embrace transgendered people through their corporate Diversity programs.

In 1995, the idea that a transgendered person might actually go to Washington, D.C., to speak with their state's Representatives and Senators was pure fantasy. No one could have predicted the First Transgender Lobby Days in 1995 when over 100 transgendered people walked the halls of Congress.

So, if no one predicted these events, how did they come to happen?

That small publishing company is my Creative Design Services. I started out with a small goal, make a few bucks to buy some clothes and go to an event here and there without hitting the household budget. Today, CDS is what I do for a living. Out of necessity, I grew CDS into a full-time business supporting the information needs of the transgender community.

That small group that met in a suburb was the Renaissance Transgender Association. And just to show you how wrong I can be, I'm the one who made the 50 member prediction. Renaissance now has 4 chapters and 11 affiliates in 9 states, representing almost 1500 members.

Using the Be All as a model, other support groups started hosting conventions around the country in the late 80's. Now we have Fall Harvest, Texas "T" Party, Southern Comfort, California Dreaming, Esprit, Riverside Gala, Paradise In The Poconos, SPICE, TRANSGEN, and many more.

In the beginning there was Virginia Prince and God said it was good. But folks soon needed something more than what Tri-Ess offered. The Gateway Gender Alliance was the first attempt at a national open-membership organization with chapters. And while GGA did not survive, it did instill the spirit of independence into many new organizations. Now there are over 120 support groups throughout the US with new ones springing up every week.

In the early 1990's we began to see the emergence of our FtM brothers. Pushed out by academic research, we met the first of the FtM activists, Jason Cromwell, from Washington state, Taylor Montgomery from Texas, and Jamison Green from California. We're now into a second generation which includes Maxwell Anderson from Florida and Gary Bowen from Maryland.

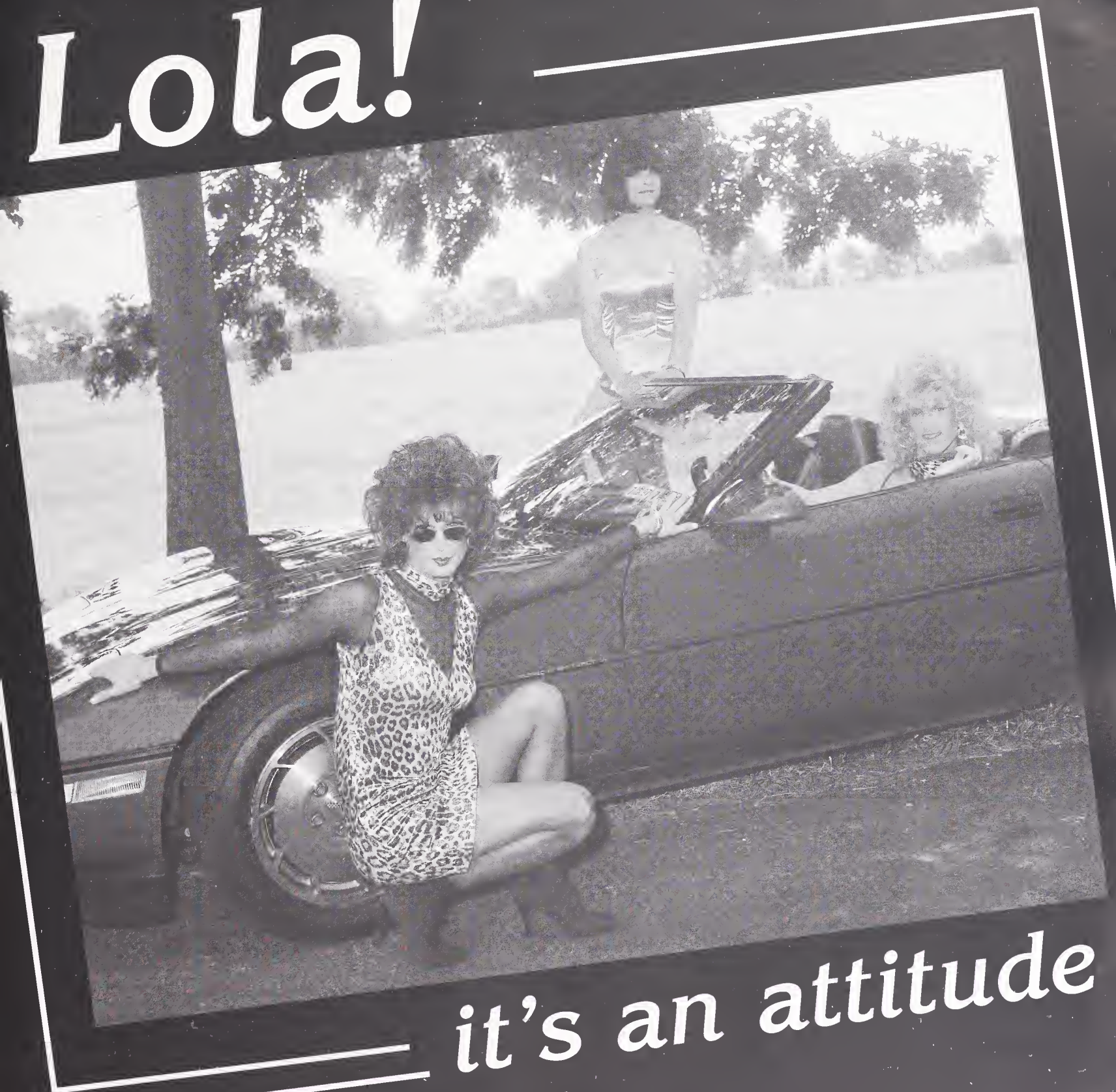
In 1995, the Human Rights Campaign Fund helped to sponsor a bill in Congress called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) to protect the jobs of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. It does not include protection for transgendered people and HRC has no intentions of supporting an amendment to do so. In fact, HRC said they would actively oppose such a change. That was enough to fire up activists like Phyllis Frye, among others, who then created the First National Transgender Lobby day in October 1995. That one event changed forever how we think of ourselves as a community. And this particular event would never have happened without the Internet.

What all of these events have in common are the drive of one or more persons with a desire to fill a need in the community or to right a wrong against our community. If you choose to stand on the sideline, it is impossible to see what's coming next. Someone once said: "The best way to predict the future is to invent it yourself."

My point is simple: If you're sitting out there waiting for someone else to create your future, you're already lost. Seize the opportunities yourself. Predict your own future by getting involved at the local, regional or national level. Because, and make no doubt about it, the future is where you and I will spend the rest of our lives.

JoAnn Roberts

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